

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a documentary ("Stolen Honor") that is biased against a presidential candidate (in this case John Kerry) just days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Additionally, they use their power to push their own political agenda and mask it as "news" or "entertainment."

Is Sinclair willing to air "Going Upriver," a documentary that honors Kerry's life and service to his country, or "Fahrenheit 9/11," a film that takes a critical stance against George Bush, between now and election day?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.